

Miners measure up well against Brighton

By Bruce Smith
MatchupUT.com

Coming into the season, Bingham and Brighton looked at Thursday night's game as a potential measuring stick.

When the game ended between the usual 5A powers and Bingham had claimed an impressive 67-35 victory, Miners coach **Rand Rasmussen** wasn't ready to claim a 5A state championship, but he couldn't help but feel pretty good.

"I've been doing this a long time," Rasmussen said. "We're a young, young team. But little by little, we're coming of age."

There's still a long way to go, but Bingham improved to 2-0 with a nice effort from its deep roster. **Summer Yack** scored 18 points, and impressed a lot of people with her outside shooting, and the Miners used a 14-0 run in the second quarter to put Brighton in its place.

"We tried man-to-man, but they're so quick, we went to a zone," explained Brighton coach Jim Gresh of his defensive tactics. "They shot the lights out. We didn't expect that."

The Miners made 8-16 three-pointers, led by Yack, who was 4-6 from behind the arc. They also forced 19 Brighton turnovers with a dizzying display of defense. Bingham led 32-23 at halftime,



Shelby Richards intensely searches for a teammate to pass the ball while Brighton coach Jim Gresh and the Bengals watch from behind.

but quickly built a 20-point lead and never let up.

During the final 16 minutes, the Miners outscored Brighton 35-12.

"We didn't beat a bad team," said Rasmussen. "We got a lot of effort from everybody. I don't want to have a system where opponents just have to defend one player because pretty soon other teams are going to adjust."

With Rasmussen substituting freely, **Leticia**

Leticia Lewis added 10 points and freshman **Shelby Richards** had eight. Sophomore **Jillian Powell** and senior **Brooke Blonquist** had eight rebounds each as Bingham held a 41-22 advantage in that department.

Brighton's highlights came mostly in the first half. **Shelbi Everett** had the hot hand early. She had 16 points by halftime, including four three-pointers. The Bengals

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BINGHAM BASKETBALL: Miners 67, Brighton 35



TOP LEFT: The JV squad cheers on the varsity.

TOP RIGHT: Whitney Daniels.

LOWER LEFT: Ashton Henderson.

MIDDLE: Shelby Richards.

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held a 16-12 advantage early in the second period until their scoring drought resulted in Bingham's run.

It was an Everett three-pointer that ended the drought. Everett, however, was pestered a lot harder by Bingham's defense after that and she didn't score another point. Brighton shot just 27 percent (11-41), including a 3-18 performance after halftime.

Gresh wasn't too worried, though.

"They used their depth and wore us down, and that's what they do," he said. "When you play Bingham, they're going to expose every weakness we have. This is just Game 2. There are three months left. We got our butts kicked tonight, but we'll be back."

GAME SUMMARY

Bingham 12 20 17 18 - 67
Brighton 14 9 7 5 - 35

BINGHAM (67) - Leticia Lewis 4-11 0-0 10, Jillian Powell 2-2 2-2 7, Summer Yack 6-12 2-2 18, Ashton Henderson 2-4 3-4 7, Brooke Blonquist 2-6 0-0 4, Shelby Richards 3-6 1-2 8, Mackenzie Bruggeman 2-2 1-2 5, Lateesha Richards 1-3 0-2 2, Karlene Tuimauga 1-1 0-0 2, Cheryl Lyman 0-0 2-2 2, Katie Lloyd 1-1 0-0 2, Monique Washington 0-1 0-0 0, Chantee Renouard 0-1 0-0 0, Ana Kaili 0-1 0-0 0, Whitney Daniels 0-0 0-0 0. Totals 24-50 11-16. 67.

BRIGHTON (35) - Kelcie Douglas 2-8 2-2 6, Marissa Egbert 0-5 0-0 0, Shelbi Everett 6-16 0-2 16, Mikayla Mosely 0-5 1-2 1, Mary Murdock 2-4 0-0 6, Ali Hahn 1-1 0-1 2, Maddy Chin 0-1 1-4 1, Amy Johnston 0-1 2-2 2, Taylor Hahn 0-0 1-2 1, Ashley Cruz 0-0 0-0 0. Totals 11- 41 7-15 35.

Total fouls: Brighton 16, Bingham 14. **Fouled out:** None. **Technical fouls:** None. **Three-point shooting:** Bingham 8-15 (Yack 4, Lewis 2, Powell, Richards), Brighton 6-16 (Everett 4, Murdock 2). **Rebounds:** Bingham 41 (Powell, Blonquist 8), Brighton 22 (Mosely 6). **Turnovers:** Bingham 14, Brighton 19.